graduate students at the University of Edinburgh. The author lays no claim to originality; his chief concern has been to present '... the ideas of the classical German-speaking psychiatrists' in schizophrenia and to relate them to those of the better-known Anglo-American clinicians. The most substantial contributions of the older German workers reside in their careful clinical observations; many of these are incorporated into the chapter on 'Symptomatology' which is appropriately the largest in the book. Though the major problems of aetiology and classification remain unsolved, the views of such authorities as Jaspers, Kleist, Leonhard C. Schneider, Conrad, and Bingswanger retain a more than historic interest and are still not easily accessible to the student without a working knowledge of the German language. In summarizing this material Dr. Fish has performed a useful service for examination candidates; it will be still more valuable if he stimulates some to consult the original texts.


This book contains the observations and opinions of one of the more progressive authorities on the state of mental hospital psychiatry in Germany at the present time. It makes rather sad reading. Professor Schulte covers a wide variety of topics, ranging from the physical setting of psychiatric institutions to the problems of communication within them, whether or not it is necessary to include reproductions of the title pages of the patients' magazine does credit to his thoroughness rather than to necessity. The author's experience at Gütersloh appears to have brought him under the influence of Hermann Simon whose name is so closely associated with the theory and practice of work-therapy. The English reader who is unacquainted with this remarkable man will find the section devoted to him of some interest but most of the administrative reforms and therapeutic changes discussed in the text do little more than reflect post-war Anglo-American innovations. While it is good to know that the Germans are planning to improve mental hospitals, it is perhaps more important that we are now concerned with pulling them down.


Dr. Clauser's aim is to introduce the role of psychological factors in the genesis and treatment of conditions commonly referred to the general physician. The first part of his book is concerned with diagnostic concepts and the doctor-patient transaction; he then discusses the making of a 'multi-dimensional' diagnosis and outlines some neurotic patterns of illness; finally, he makes an excursion through the field of 'functional' disorders. For whom, in 1962, is such a book intended? Certainly not for the psychiatrist, who will take objection to the uncritical omnium gatherum of psychodynamic theories and the virtual disregard of the social aspects of illness. Nor for the experienced physician, who will already have accepted the view that his patients demand more than a mechanistic form of medical care but will baulk at the naive 'psychosomatic' alternatives which are so jauntily presented. Perhaps the inexperienced or badly taught student-physician may be tempted by the book's pretensions to enlarge his medical horizons. If so, he can find more reliable and better-balanced texts in English.


Perhaps it is the pancretc role of psychoanalysis in the United States which accounts for the stream of publications on the subject since the end of the second world war. Most of them modify or revise old themes and despite its title the present volume, a collection of essays on various aspects of psychoanalytic theory and practice, is 'modern' in no recognizable way. Most of the material on the relationship of psychoanalysis to the social sciences, to philosophy, to teaching, and to therapy has been presented elsewhere. Even the polemics are familiar. What merit the book possesses is attached to one essay, 'Psychoanalysis and Experimental Psychology' by Professor Carney Landis, whose contribution is a model of clear and critical thinking. His concluding words could be taken to heart with profit by his co-authors: 'It is more than twenty years since Freud's death. That Freud was a man of genius, all will agree. He is dead; may he rest in peace'.

Books Received

(Review in a later issue is not precluded by notice here of books recently received.)


